



Volume 28

An ARCEC Monthly Publication

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Counterpoise Editor - Sue Robins AF6LJ

SD Hamfest & More

By Sue Robins AF6LJ

Gene Sweich, WB9COY put on a great presentation on the various digital voice modes used on VHF these days. He gave an in depth presentation on DMR, Motorola's version, along with several equipment examples. His presentation included a couple of the DV Hot Spots now in popular use. Gene's presentation was informative and well worth it. Thank You Gene for your great presentation.

73'
AF6LJ



We have Three Board
Positions Open
ARCEC WANTS YOU!

Join Our Board

ARCEC Repeater Frequencies

2 Meter Repeater	220 MHZ Repeater	440 MHZ Repeater
TX 146.475	TX 222.480	TX 440.900
RX 147.420	RX 224.080	RX 445.900
Offset .945	Offset 1.6	Offset 5.00
PL 107.2	PL 107.2	PL 107.2



SD Hamfest

The First Saturday in October brings us the San Diego Hamfest put on by the Lakeside Amateur Radio Club, LARC. This years event did not disappoint, attendance was up from last year according to reliable sources. The weather was good, comfortable temperatures made for an enjoyable time.

Pat, WA6MHZ ran the special event station which was a major attraction during the California QSO Party. Pat wracked up several pages full of contacts while running FT-8. Pat did well in providing visibility for LARC, and Amateur Radio. On the other end of things onsite testing brought us a few newly minted hams. Every year LARC holds a testing clinic at the hamfest every year.

The Old Radio Trading Post was a success. Many items have changed hands, and everyone went away happy. Plenty of radio gear, and Test equipment to choose from. This was one of the best hamfests I had attended in some time, Looking forward to next years San Diego Hamfest, they just keep getting better. Thanks to all the hard work LARC members have put into making this event possible.

73'

Sue, AF6LJ



Ham Radio

Pokemon

By Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ

Pokemon is a video game where the object is to track down and catch all the varieties of Pokemon critters. Most famous is the PIKACHU, a big yellow rat with a lightning shaped tail. My son and his kids all played it for 2 generations now. Most recently is the POKEMON GO Version, where you drive all over town and catch virtual Pokemons mobile! I never got into video games, I was too busy with Ham Radio.

One of the most exciting operating activities is the DX Chasing. And Chasing it sure is! They are hard to catch! DXing requires careful STALKING and then Pouncing like a TIGER! DX is not for the timid; you have to call like your life depended on it or you don't make it into the log!

Besides resident DX, many fortunate Hams go on DXpeditions; trips that combine Field Day with overseas high adventure. This is the Ultimate joy in Ham Radio; going to a remote location and putting out contacts to the world! There are some less expensive DXpeditions too. I just did a DXpedition to the Lakeside Rodeo Grounds for the San Diego Hamfest. I set up an operating station on HF, much like Field Day but we had house power. I used a G5RV on the flag-pole, and a 100W Icom IC-737A, along with a computer for A FT8 DXpedition as N6L. Over 12 hours of operation, I logged 166 contacts!

Back when we had Fry's Operating Days, it was similar with many of the clubs setting up Field Day type stations. That was a short run though, only a few hours. Our ARC of El Cajon brought out our 100 foot Tower Trailer (thoroughly Magnificent) with a Tribander on top. I set up Go Kits to work the world!

But back to the Ham Radio Pokemon. There are several events a year where multiple stations are related in a joint effort to be DX! One is the 13 Colonies, where there are 13 states and a couple of bonus stations using K2A and up. This is for a week around July 4th.

The 2nd Event is the Route 66 event every September. Stations go on the air from various locations along Route 66. Both issue beautiful Certificates for contacts.

The GOAL is just like POKEMON: GOTTA CATCH THEM ALL!!! Of course just 1 contact is rigorous enough for many Hams, but us DXers like to go for the sweep (worked them ALL). Some years I fall a few short, but many times I do log them all. They operate on all bands and modes, so it is possible to find a propagation path to them all.

Some FUN DXpeditions like the current Pitcairn Island VP6R is one to play Ham Radio Pokemon with too. Unlike DXpeditions to BOUVET and Heard Island, you are encouraged to work them on as many bands and modes as possible. They have a daily updated online log where you can see if your made it into the log.

Last Years Ducie Island was very similar VP6D. I managed to work them on 24 band modes which was close to a sweep. As I type, I am up to 18 out of 20 possible (and one left is 6 Meter EME)

I still have a week and a half left to CATCH the missing band modes. Each band has 3 possible modes (SSB, CW and Digital) but some bands are limited (no SSB on 30M!!!) Sometimes they add band modes as the DXpedition progresses and they weed down the folks who need them for a ATNO (All time New One)

The key to working them is to follow their activations on the worldwide DX SUMMIT (http://www.dxsummit.fi/#/?dx_calls=VP6R) It also requires being available around the clock. Many times propagation is only at night! and you need to free up your schedule as well. Can't work them if you are not in front of the radio! I missed several by not being home when they were on! Back to searching

what is the Call of that PIKACHU???

WA6MHZ

Next Month's Meeting

Home Brew Contest & Board Nominations

WAMO Net Rebirth

Steve AJ6IT has brought the Wednesday WAMO Net back from its long hibernation. The WAMO Net is a controlled net for members, and non-members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. The net meets every Wednesday starting with early check-ins at 7:45 PM Pacific time. Come and join us for the WAMO net.

Club Shirts & Jackets

We have green, pocketed 2013 Field Day club shirts available in sizes S (2), M (1), and L (8) for \$10 each. Our standard Club Shirts have no pocket and are in sizes M (10), L (4), 2XL (7), 3XL (4), 4XL (5) for \$10 each. Sizes are limited to stock on hand.

Lined Windbreaker Jackets are also available in sizes L (1) and XL (7) for \$24 each. These have side pockets with snap closure.

Donut Net

Monday nights after dinner the Donut Net can be found on the ARCEC VHF repeater. Axel KI6RRN hosts a fun filled net with trivia questions and other activities. The net is a great place to spend that after dinner and before prime TV time. Come and join Axel for fun and fellowship with your fellow hams every Monday at 7:00 PM.

Support Our Local Businesses



Membership Badges & Pins

All members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon who might wish to obtain a membership badge can contact Dell Awards and place an order with them. They are our current preferred source for these badges, and have our logo and design on file and ready to create a custom badge for members. Current price is \$7.50 per badge and they have indicated that there is normally a 3 business day turnaround time. These are quality badges made by a long established company, so place yours on order soon. They can be reached at the below address and phone number, and be sure to mention you saw this blurb in the Counterpoise newsletter too.

Dell Awards

7949 Broadway

Lemon Grove, CA 91945

(619) 469-2100

Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30am-5:30pm

Sat 10am-1pm

Sun - Closed

Club Pins Now Available:

They have arrived! A limited number of club pins are now here and can be obtained from our Treasurer at most club functions. These are 1" diameter pins with a rubber clutch pin on rear. You can now show the world your support of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, and for the small cost of \$3.00 each too. Get them while they are available.





The **AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF EL CAJON**^{Inc.}
WA6BGS

Post Office Box Fifty, El Cajon California 92022

Founded 1960 ~ Incorporated 1976

Please fill out this form and then see options at bottom for submitting to the club

Date of application: ___ / ___ / ___

Amount Paid: \$ _____ Cash Check Check # _____

Membership Type: Individual (\$20/year) Family* (\$35/year)

Membership Status: New Renewal Returning Member

Call Sign First Name _____ Last Name _____

If a previous member, what was your WAMO number?

ARRL Member: Yes No

License Class: Technician General Extra Other

Email Address (required) _____

Phone Number (optional) _____

**Use another sheet of paper to add Family members and please include the following information:*

First Name, Last Name, Call Sign (if any), License Class, Wamo Number (if any), & Email Address.

Submitting this form:

To submit this form, you can mail it to:

**Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
P.O. Box 50
El Cajon, CA 92022**

-OR-

Bring it to the next club meeting on the second Thursday of each month. You can find the date and location by getting online at www.wa6bgs.us which is the club website. Check it out for the most current information regarding the club.

Cash Payments - Get a receipt from the Club Treasurer. Please make all checks payable to AMATEUR RADIO CLUB of EL CAJON, Incorporated. Receipts for payments by check will be sent by email or regular mail by the Club Treasurer.

Members with an FCC Call Sign are full members with voting privileges. Members without an FCC Call Sign are Associate members without voting privileges.

YOUR DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE: Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, Inc. Is a 501 C 7 Corporation. Donations are NOT tax deductible.

Email address and phone number are to allow club officers to contact members regarding club business and information of interest.